

Escape Galge - WN Chapter 01-07 Part 1

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Beginning of Destiny

A 7-chapter story by Hanaka Yui. [Synopsis](#). Charm points: galge setting for once, rude awakening(s), a bit of character development, a bit of ‘moral of the story’, and sugar.

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Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

[Chapter 1](#) – Beginning of Destiny

『The Feather of Destiny』

It was a rumour.

A white feather, said to flutter down from thin air.

It’s said that a part of it is dyed in the colour of cherry blossoms, and that part appears to be a heart shape.

Those who pick up that feather will experience a fateful encounter... it seems.

I didn’t genuinely believe it.

At most, the thought “How lovely” crossed my mind.

While I was interested, I hadn’t explicitly gone to find it.

It’s only to the extent that I survey my surroundings when it suddenly comes to mind.

I did have the girlish thought of wanting to try out the thing called a『destined encounter』.

I might have said『want』, but it was actually at the level of a mild expectation, and a hopeful anticipation.

Something I wish for but know is unrealistic. That was how I treated it in my heart.

Or so it should have been, but――.

That day, I was exceedingly concerned about the flowers of the flower bed which I'm normally unconcerned about.

"... Seems like you're about to wilt? You aren't too perky."

Perhaps because it hasn't been raining recently, the earth is exceedingly dry. There are also weeds growing out.

Normally someone should be tending to this, but the flowers that seemed neglected appeared pitiful.

"I'll be watering now."

Even though I had, never done such a thing before.

It could just be that I happened to be in such a mood, though.

Looking around the surroundings, I found a faucet that seemed to be for the purpose of watering, nearby.

There was also a hose perfect for watering attached to it. I promptly pointed the hose towards the flower bed for the sake of watering it, and turned the faucet full-force.

"Uwah!?"

"Un?"

A surprised-sounding voice came from the direction of the hose which was pointing towards the flower bed.

"Eh?"

Moving my gaze that was on the faucet to the direction of the voice, a slim and tall male student is standing there.

Looking at him closely, he's drenched.

"... Ah!"

Am I the cause of him getting wet!?

It's not raining, and there's no moisture in the vicinity.

No matter how I think about it, it can only be that I splashed water onto him.

"I ap-apologise! I was trying to offer water to the flowers... and ended up letting the water spew out without looking properly."

Putting the hose down in a hurry, I rushed towards the male student.

The colour of his necktie is red. I lowered my head at the male student who can be considered a year my senior, a 2nd-year. [1]

He might be angry. What do I do?

What do I do if he's a scary person?

I was unable to lift my head as I thought of such things. And as I waited for his response...

"Ahaha."

(Ah, a clear and pleasant voice...)

Surprised at the pretty voice of the male student, I raised my head wondering *what was the laughter I just heard*, and... our eyes met.

"I was just thinking that it's hot. It's become refreshing now."

"... !?"

I thought I was going to stop breathing.

Soft cream-coloured hair, accompanied by jade-like eyes.

A handsome face with a shapely nose, a tall and slim look.

The upright figure who gazed over with a gentle smile, appeared like he was sparkling.

(H-How cool!)

Immediately, I felt my face growing warm.

I think even my heart was beating twice as fast as usual.

My body stiffened for some reason and I was unable to move.

We were stuck in a standstill, with our eyes still looking into the other's.

“You?”

“Ah! Yes! I ap-apologise! Oh right, handkerchief!”

My head and body finally moved when I was spoken to.

I had splashed water on him, so I must do something about it quickly.

When I offered the handkerchief I had with me, he reservedly said “I don't mind this much”.

But, water is dripping from his pretty hair, and his face is also wet.

This must be what they call, ‘a man who looks good even when he's dripping wet’. Wait, this isn't the time to be thinking about that.

“But, you'll catch a cold at this rate! Even if it's just wiping a little... excuse me!”

Wanting to do something somehow, I placed the handkerchief at his forehead and cheeks. It was only when I started wiping that I realised.

My hand was stretched as I looked up at the tall senpai, but... his face is so close!

I finally became aware that I was doing something embarrassing.

“I apologise for approaching so suddenly.”

“Ah, no... I don't mind.”

Looking at senpai who behaved shyly and slightly awkwardly, I felt even more embarrassed and apologetic.

I, what am I doing....!

Wanting to apologise again, I turned towards senpai. At that moment...

I felt a faint presence above.

Something is falling?

I can tell that something is drawing nearer from the skies.

Thinking that someone probably dropped something from the upper levels of the school building, I reached my hand out.

So as to not let it fall, I quickly grabbed onto that fluttering something that's moving unsteadily.

It was a white and light thing.

"Feather? Was a pigeon flying?"

Senpai who was watching my movements mumbled.

After hearing senpai's words, I also shifted my gaze onto the feather I was holding in my hand.

It really is a feather.

But its colour is white, it's a pretty, pure white feather.

Not a pigeon...?

At that moment, I recalled.

(Could it be!)

When I looked at the feather in full, there... it was.

Without a doubt, a heart design.

"Amazing... it's the Feather of Destiny! It exists!"

"?"

I unthinkingly frolicked, bouncing with a *hop hop*, due to the surprise of finding out that the rumour was true, and from the happiness of coming into contact with it.

I became embarrassed when I noticed a gaze observing my behaviour with curiosity.

That's right, senpai is here...

“Ah, I’m sorry. Shouting all of a sudden... Erm, does senpai know about the『Feather of Destiny』?”

“No, I don’t. Ah...”

When I followed the gaze of senpai, who raised a soft sound of surprise, to the feather in my hand....

“Wa!?”

The feather was glowing.

I couldn’t feel any warmth, chill or anything at all when I touched it, but the feather was certainly glowing.

Unable to do anything, I stiffened, and eventually the light faded... and its figure vanished.

“It disappeared...”

“What in the world... Is it the Feather of Destiny or what you called it?”

“Ah, yes. Probably...”

It’s a rumour that you often hear in this school, but it seems this drenched senpai doesn’t know of it.

It may be a story that guys aren’t very interested in. But having it appear before my very eyes, I was unable to suppress my paramount excitement, and explained to him what I know of the 『Feather of Destiny』.

“I see. There sure are wonders in this world. What a lovely story.”

The majority of guys will, make fun or be nonplussed the moment you bring up the word 『Destiny』.

And then, they’ll finish off by spouting the『You girls sure like things like that』 habitual statement.

However, he didn’t do that.

It could be because he actually witnessed it, but my favourable impression of

him raised at how he listened to the story without poking fun.

“Does senpai, believe in『Destiny』?”

“I wonder. But, when I think that my destined one is out there somewhere... I want to meet her.”

“That’s right, isn’t it!”

Hearing words I could empathise with, I felt something warm welling in my heart.

I didn’t know there’s such a lovely person in this school.

“It’ll be nice if you can meet. Your destined one.”

When I saw his refreshing smile that was like a prince-sama’s, I thought.

That『if only this person is my destined one』.

Perhaps, that feather might be something that appeared in order for us to meet each other.

If so, as I thought, this person is... my...

That was, my encounter with senpai, Kagurazaka Aoi.

※※※

Since then, it became that we often bump into each other, it naturally became that we get in touch with each other... it became that we hang out together...

The distance between us was steadily narrowing.

Kagurazaka-senpai was well-liked and of course popular, but he always prioritised his appointments with me and always kept his word.

Although he’s kind to everyone, he’s exceptionally so to me, and I believe I’ve the lead on the other girls.

Nevertheless, wanting him to grow even more fond of me, I put in effort to become cuter, and worked hard so that we can get along well.

I was so enthralled by Kagurazaka-senpai that even I myself was shocked.

And then, one day... I hardened my resolve to confess.

The place I called him out to is the roof.

There's no one around.

With the blue skies above, being alone with senpai in this vast space.

It was as though there's only the two of us in this world.

In this confessing environment I'm blessed with, while trying to calm down my heart that seems like it's about to break from the nerves, I composed myself and opened my mouth.

"I... towards senpai!"

My heart seems like it's about to burst.

But, senpai is waiting for my words with a kind gaze.

I have to tell him.

"Towards senpai, I... towards... senpai... I?"

I was assaulted by a feeling like déjà vu as I tried to form my words.

Huh, this... it happened before?

Confess... to Kagurazaka-senpai... confess...

..... Ah.

A screen spreads out within my head all of a sudden.

Flowing images.

There are many figures of girls... no, they're illustrations.

At that moment, I recalled.

"Kii?"

I returned to my senses when my name was called by Kagurazaka-senpai.

Kagurazaka-senpai... yes,『Kagurazaka Aoi』is... the『protagonist』's.

“Continue from where you left off?”

The screen once again spreads within my head.

Within that was,『my figure』that I meet everyday in the mirror, no... to be exact, 『the illustration of me』...

Ah... that's right... I am... I am... !

“... s' nothing.”

“Eh?”

“It's nothing!”

“Eh? Eh?”

I was already running by the time I came to my senses.

Mindlessly heading home, bolting out of school, I charged into town.

Such a thing... is there really such a thing!?

[1] Students of different grades wear ties of different colours, so his school year and seniority can be determined by the colour of his tie.

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Graduation from Twin Tails

I think [this](#) is super duper quadruple useful to read if you've been curious about some of the galge/otoge/vn/jap *etc.* terms and slangs. If you've never played a game like this before, what I translated to 'Girls Compendium' is something like a bestiary, but with girls instead of monsters. Okay, maybe that wasn't the best allusion...

Anyway, treat your counterparts with care.

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Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

[Chapter 2](#) – Graduation from Twin Tails

“Twin tails?! Tying twin tails even in high school...?!”

Plunging into my room, I collapsed on top of my bed.

The inside of my head was in complete disorder, but I'm currently unable to bear the shame, and feel like dying.

The amiable imouto-type underclassman, Torida Kii.

Blond hair accompanied by blue eyes, along with a green ribbon-type necktie that's the colour for 1st-years, and a long-sleeved beige cardigan.

... She's the current me, a capturable character.

“Hmpf!”

I tore off the thin ribbons that held my twin tails together on both sides.

Having recalled my previous life and sorted out my memories, I'm able to look at myself objectively.

Something like twin tails, should be graduated from along with knapsacks! [1]

Ruffling my hair roughly, I sorted out the inside of my head.

“It’s the world of...『Hanazono Gakuen ～The Destinied Encounter～』, the galge.”

Even though I say it’s galge, to be more precise, it’s a『Smartphone Social Game』.

The gist is to enjoy the story where you come to get along with girls, as you lead a school life.

There are 50 female characters who appear, but there’s only 5 capturable characters in the story mode.

And I’m 1 of those 5.

The girls without a story appears separately from the story mode in the『School Wandering Mode』. If you get close to them, it’ll be recorded in the『Girls Compendium』, and if you go on dates with these『Dateables』, you can unlock their anecdotes.

Finding it appealing, the me from my previous life was quite into it, and even completed the Compendium.

If you’re wondering why I, who was also『female』in my previous life, was addicted to a『galge』, it’s because this game had a『female-oriented version』.

The only difference in the female-oriented version was that the girls were changed into guys.

5 people in the story and 50 appearing characters. The system is identical.

Would it be easier to understand if I say it’s a『galge』and an『otome game』with the same base?

As a lover of otome games, I played the female-oriented Hanazono Gakuen at first.

Having immersed myself in the female-oriented Hanazono Gakuen for about a year, I exhausted every playthroughs and started dabbling in the male-oriented one.

It was because it drew my interest. How is it different from the female-oriented version? What are the things that kindles guys?

It was unexpectedly interesting when I gave it a shot.

There's no way such a girl exists! I constantly retorted, but as the same could be said for the otome game, we're selfsame in this regard.

I clearly remembered being quite absorbed as it piqued my interest in various ways.

The current me, a.k.a. 『Torida Kii』, is a slightly cunning imouto-type, a girl who'll elicit by saying 『I like you!』even as she acts bashfully.

She's a girl who blushes often and repeatedly goes『How cool!』or『Wonderful!』in a voice of approval, then 『Oh noes, you heard that!? How ditzy of me! So embarrassing... 』. That's her standard behaviour.

Cunningness also oozed from the way her fingers poke out slightly from the long sleeves of her cardigan.

... This was how the me up until a while ago was.

“I want to die! Stupid, stupid!”

I sandwiched my head between my hands as I hit it.

If only my memory would buzz off like this!

... Unfortunately, the cruel thing is, the dark history of my foolish behaviour from up till yesterday had left deep scars in my mind and heart.

They will most likely not disappear even if I die... I want to die.

... However.

The me as of yesterday, is certainly also『me』.

I don't know what has become of me in this situation, but I had been living as『Torida Kii』up until now.

Be it my parents, friends, or my surroundings, all these were cumulated by me, as Torida Kii.

Even the feelings of love for senpai are mine.

Swinging from joy to sorrow from his every word and casual actions, it was a part of me that I brought up.

However...

I realised.

They say that『love is blind』, but the things that the me as of yesterday didn't see...

Senpai... senpai the『Protagonist』, also built favourable relationships with『capturable characters other than me』.

I understood the girls' 『Capture Percentage』from their personal belongings and their attitudes.

Most likely, all the capturable characters are at the『Pre-Dating』stage.

It's a situation where you wait for their confessions.

In actuality, I was about to do that.

This is, at the stage where all the stories have been cleared.

In the game, for the 1st playthrough, the number of people you can capture and eventually tie the knot with, is 1 person.

But in the 2nd playthrough, you can simultaneously capture a new character along with the character captured in the 1st playground.

In other words, two-timing is possible.

In that manner, in the 3rd playthrough, you can also capture the characters captured in the 1st and 2nd playthroughs. It's three-timing.

That way, you'll eventually five-time, and build a harem.

Scum. Thinking of it realistically, it's exceedingly scummy.

The current senpai is in a state similar to that scummy, five-timing harem state.

Is that his innate nature?

Or, like me, he remembers his『previous life』and is doing this with a goal in mind?

Whichever it is, my heart hurts.

Perhaps, it might be that there's no harem and it's my misconstrue.

I want to believe in him.

That's why...

“Let’s make sure.”

Please, please let it be some kind of misunderstanding...

※※※

Excluding me, there are 4 capturable characters.

It’s set that going on dates with the capturable characters on specific weekdays easily increase their favourability ratings.

I’m a character whose favourability rating increases easily on Fridays, and now that I think of it, our dates were always on Fridays.

My heart ached, but rather than paying attention to it, there’s something more important to do.

The result was that my efforts, hopes, and maiden heart was splendidly smashed into pieces.

(This ass... he’s definitely aiming for harem...!)

The day I observed his actions, was the Sunday when all the characters’ favourability ratings easily increase.

You can say it’s a day when the favorability rating perimeters have to be closely monitored.

I remained on the lookout outside his house right from morning, and what I witnessed as I shadowed him was...

There were 3 women he came in contact with.

2 capturable targets and 1 member of the Dateable.

Watching a movie with a capturable target in the morning, and getting lunch together.

Just as I thought he parted with her unexpectedly early, he went on to enjoy about 2 hours of shopping with a Dateable girl, followed by having fun at the Amusement Park night events with another capturable target from evening to

the next morning.

He held hands with all of them as though it's the most natural thing in the world.

That thoroughness in filling the idle time between the 2 capturable targets with a Dateable member, how very praiseworthy.

He will henceforth be regarded as scum.

He headed home after parting with the capturable character when the night events ended. I watched his back figure as he chuckled to himself with a "It sure was another enjoyable day today".

Dazedly, I watched him leave as I hid in the darkness.

... He was even more despicable than I thought.

"How dare you trample on my pure feelings, my maiden heart!"

Unforgivable.

Absolutely unforgivable, *unforgivable* !

Inside of me, the feelings of love for senpai died.

They completely passed away.

It's their funeral.

"This grudge, should I clear it..."

My clenched fist trembled from the anger.

I bit my lips so strongly that blood might be flowing.

When I glared at him thinking how good it'll be if looks could kill, a shocking mumble escaped from his lips.

"... Huh?... Huh? Kii-tan's favorability rating is... disappearing?"

Having my name called, I panicked thinking my shadowing was exposed, but it seems that that wasn't the case.

... Rather, did you just say "Kii-tan"!? You did, right!?

U-Uwahhhh...

For an instant, my anger changed to chills, and goosebumps ran throughout my body.

Wanting to suppress that, I folded my arms and rubbed them. Shifting my gaze to that guy, he was standing stock still beneath the streetlamp.

He was staring at the screen of his smartphone with an idiotic expression I've never seen before.

The collapsing of my mental image of the『wonderful senpai』knows no end.

“W-Why!? The parameter should have been MAX! I don't think I made the wrong Choices[3] either! I didn't mess up my lines, did I!?”

... What's the meaning of this?

He's looking at the screen of his smartphone while talking about my favorability rating and parameters.

Conjecturing from that, it means that he can『see my favorability rating on his smartphone』.

In addition, from his words, “Choices” and “lines”, it means that he was treating it as a game, capturing us as he referred to the data on his smartphone.

Could it be... even his『words』were false?

When he said my handmade sweets are delicious, when he praised me for working hard, when he scolded me for my mistakes, when he called me cute, all of them weren't 'your' 『words』?

You simply recited our『Capturing Data』?

... Haha, as he watched me dance to his tune, he undoubtedly thought. That I'm『a piece of cake』.

Something is welling up in my chest.

The corners of my eyes are growing hot.

But I can't, not here. I have to hold it in.
I beg you, hurry up and leave!
Squatting in the shadow of the lamppost, I endured.
As I listened to the fading footsteps, I held my breath too, to prevent the tears from leaking out.

His presence disappeared after a while.
There probably isn't anyone here, anymore.
Standing up, I hurried home.

“... Uu.”

There's no one in the dark and gloomy street, no one.
Once I understood that, what I had been holding back brimmed over.
Even so, to prevent it from being released full-force, I persevered as I walked on.

The sobs leaked out even though I held my mouth, and the tears did not stop even though I wiped them, but I cannot relax.

Not until I enter my own room.
I won't be able to go home if I break down here.

... Seriously unforgivable, Kagurazaka Aoi.
I will not let things go your way.

What Feather of Destiny.
That's just a Feather of Misfortune.
Harem? I will wreck you.

[1] ランドセル [Randoseru](#): A type of bag commonly used by elementary schoolers.

[2] It's not so obvious in the translation, but the way Kii speaks before and after she regains her memory are different. Before, she spoke (and thought) in a more cutesy, girly, and perhaps a bit ditzy way.

[3] Those choices in galge. (eg. “Senpai, does this look good on me?” A: I think this suits you better. B: Everything looks good on you! C: Of course, cupcake!) Your choice will usually affect the story and favorability rating.

Restart

‘Dating Line-up’ from previous chapter is changed to ‘Dateables’.

Btw I thought it was pretty obvious but maybe it wasn’t, seeing the entry of EGP on NU... ‘Escape Galge’, ‘Renai Kakumei Onii-chan’, *etc.* are shortened from the actual titles. I’m just arbitrarily using these because, well, they’re shorter.



Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

[Chapter 3](#) – Restart

The day after I experienced the most unpleasant day of my life.
I awoke to a most unpleasant mood.
The morning sun was hateful to the extent where I wondered if I’d become Dracula.

It was time to wake up. When I looked at the screen of my smartphone to turn off the alarm, there were calls from that guy.
There were also mails.[1]
... Just his name appearing in my field of vision is unpleasant.
I deleted him from my contacts and blocked all incoming calls and messages from unknown numbers.

“... Alright!”

Today onwards, I am reborn.
It’s a Brand New • Torida Kii.

I broke into tears after reaching home yesterday, and cried in the bath because I didn’t want my eyes to get all puffy.
Submerged in the bathtub, I cried.

Even if I raise my voice underwater, you can only hear *blub blub* sounds, so my family didn't hear me crying.

My eyes won't feel much friction if I wipe my face quickly, so they won't swell so easily.

Other than that, I simply cast 'mind control' on myself, that it's a waste to shed tears over that scum.

The tears of a maiden is extremely precious. What a waste, what a waste.

My face appears as usual thanks to my stirring efforts.

I... worked hard!

First of all, I naturally stopped tying twin tails.

Leaving my hair down, I lightly coiled the ends and made soft curls.

It gives a slightly mature feel.

... It's solely my personal impression though.

I also took off the 'cunning' cardigan and tied it around my waist.

I'm changing my image.

Isolating myself from the『imouto label』!

It's a De-Cunning Campaign!

Next, I'll definitely drag that guy to hell!

"Kii!"

I psyched myself and opened the door at the entranceway in high spirits. I then wanted to close it the very next moment.

(... Why is he here?)

My brows reflexively furrowed.

The one whom I thought should be wiped out from earth, Kagurazaka Aoi from the scum family of the scum species, is there.

It can be that he's concerned over the disappearance of the favorability rating,

and is here to ascertain that.

Come to think of it, I was also in the middle of confessing.

Close shave, I was just about to cross the Sanzu River[2], huh.

I don't want to get directly involved with him anymore, but I can't be stuck by the entrance forever.

"Kii? ... You give off a feeling different from usual, don't you. You changed your hairstyle?"

Looking at me who left the house, the scum acted bashful and blushed as though he was captivated.

I'll never be fooled by that acting again.

The me from before would have asked something like『Is it weird?』; questions that will induce a『It's cute』response. And once I'm told that it's cute, I'll go『Being told that by senpai... I'm very happy』while turning red like a tomato. However, I won't do something cold like that now that my eyes are opened.

"Please do not call my name so familiarly."

"... Eh?"

"Rather, kindly refrain from speaking to me at all from now on. Bye."

"Eh? Eh?"

He seems to be panicking with widened eyes, but even that appears irritating to me.

As if I give a hoot! I left him be and started walking.

In a moment, he chased after me while still looking confused.

Gross, exceedingly gross.

Even that face which my heart throbbed so much at, made me feel like puking when I see it.

Gross.

Let's not call him ikemen from now on, but gross-man.

"Kii? What's wrong? Did something happen? Did I... do something? It doesn't go

through even when I try to contact you...”

“I deleted your contact. Your existence inside of me has also been deleted.”

“Eh?”

Gross-man’s legs stopped.

For an instant I saw his stiff face, but because I moved on without stopping, the gross-man disappeared from my vision.

I sense a presence behind me, so he’s probably following me.

Ah, gross,

I can feel an aura that’s asking me to be mindful of him.

Ignore, I say! Ignore!

※※※

Today is Monday, the start of the week.

The capturable character whose favourability rating increases today is the clumsy student-teacher, Komatani Akari.

Appearance-wise, she has short red hair and light brown eyes.

Her artless figure clad in a suit is appealing.

Gross-man is, as expected, with her.

It’s his standard behaviour, what he usually does.

... Does it mean that I wasn’t a deterrence at all?

While it’s not like I want him to be mindful of me, I’m pissed at how bold his nerves are.

Fall into hell.

Step on pincushions, drown in lakes of blood, death by boiling!

The corridor on the 2nd floor along the 2nd-years’ classrooms.

There, the two of them are side-by-side, chatting happily.

Gross-man placed his hand on Akari's cheek, and whispered something.
After which Akari's face reddened, and she gazed at gross-man with dewy eyes.

"C... Cold."

I was close to shivering, thinking that I was about to be captured like that, too.
I'll freeze if I keep looking at them.

My eyes met with gross-man's the instant I tried to look away.
Gross-man's eyes widened, and he stiffened.

He hurriedly removed his hand from Akari's cheeks, but I am no longer a
capturable target.

I will not do things like leaving in tears while crying『So it wasn't only me!?!』.

I quickly averted my gaze so that Akari will not notice, and took my leave.
I have an important mission.

Bringing the iron hammer down on him.
I *cannot* forget that.
I will definitely clear my grudge.

Or so I say, but I won't do things like killing him.
Well, that's blindingly obvious though.
I won't do violent things.
I am a maiden after all~!

I'm thinking of doing something that will be damaging to him.
That is...
I'm thinking of snatching the capturable targets from him.
I'll open those girls' eyes.
He probably came this far making full use of his smartphone.
I'll destroy it all.
I believe that is the most effective method.

Stop the harem! [3]

To the same extent that the global warming must be prevented, I must stop it!

First and foremost, today's victim, Akari.

She comes to this school as a student-teacher.

Despite harbouring the dream of becoming a teacher as wonderful as her respected teacher...

Being taken in by his trickery, she's in a situation where the inside of her head is full of him and she can't focus on her long-awaited job.

I secretly left an envelope on her desk in the empty staff room.

It was the photographs I took of him and the girls when I shadowed him, along with the words『Please open your eyes. Please cherish your dream. 』.

That, and one more thing.

I'm thinking of using the knowledge from the game.

Akari's desk had a book she received from her respected teacher.

There should be a photograph she took with her teacher wedged within it.

“... There it is.”

At the bottom of the lowest large drawer.

For it to be in such a place, does it mean that she hasn't been reading this book recently?

That's not good.

I left the book next to the letter which I hope can 'awaken' her.

And gently placing the photograph with her teacher on top...

“What a good smile...”

It was a photograph of her graduation.

The high-schooler Akari was carrying a bouquet beside her teacher, making a peace sign with a dazzling smile.

“... It'll be nice if you can regain the feelings you had back then.”

It might be impossible for her to immediately open her eyes, I hope that this will be the impetus for her 'awakening'.

It was when I was thinking that I'll look at the situation, and deal the next move if this isn't effective.

— — *Thud thud.*

“!?”

The sound of heels resounding in the corridor.

One of the female teachers is probably returning.

Fortunately, I can make a quick escape because the door is open.

For now, I hid in the shadow of the pillar by the door which is on the opposite side of where the sounds are coming from.

It is Akari who returned.

It seems she already parted from gross-man... how early.

She placed the key back to the key rack and returned to her own desk... where she found the letter.

What her eyes first turned to was the photograph taken with her respected teacher and the book.

Her bearing seems to be saying『Why are they here?』.

Next, she took『that letter』.

Opening the envelope, the first thing she saw was the photographs.

“No way... Aoi-kun?”

Her eyes widened, and the name of the scum spilled from her lips.

For her to say his name, while there may be no one around, she was probably shocked enough to forget that this is the staff room.

Her legs likely couldn't support her anymore; she crumbled down onto the

chair.

Placing her hand on her forehead, she repeatedly mumbled『No way...』in a tearful voice.

My chest started to hurt when I saw that expression.

The thought of『Damn scum, serve you right!』didn't cross my mind.

As though I, who was in the same situation as her until recently, resonated with her feelings, something welled up in me.

She was reading my letter as I withstood the compulsion.

『Please open your eyes. Please cherish your dream.』

Akari's hand, which was holding the photographs so tightly that they crumpled, lowered. Putting down the disgusting and unpleasant photographs, she looked at the photograph with her respected teacher and the book.

“... Sensei.”

Spilling that single word... she simply, simply gazed at the photograph.

... Let's go. My mission is over.

※※※

My arm was suddenly seized just as I was about to leave the front gate in order to head home.

What's going on? Turning to look, the culprit was... it's you, huh.

“I think I told you not to touch me, didn't I?”

“Kii, just now, there was a strand of hair on Komatani-sensei's face. That's why...”

“I'm not interested.”

“... Eh?”

“Like I said, reports like that are absolutely unnecessary as it’s something completely unrelated to me.”

Looking into his eyes, I told him clearly.

Gross-man’s expression looked unsettled.

It appears that he doesn’t understand what I really mean.

It’s just as my words indicate, but does he not understand English[4]?

It’s also irritating how he’s calling her『Komatani-sensei』when he’s giving an explanation like this, even though he calls her『Akari』when he’s with her.

Deciding not to deal with him anymore, I tried to break free and leave. However, gross-man tightened his hold and smiled at me.

“Kii. Let’s go home together.”

“I shall refuse, forevermore.”

This guy, can’t he read the atmosphere?

To think he extended an invitation with the flow just now.

I’ll never again say『To be able to go home with senpai, I’m so happy.』bashfully.

“Please don’t *ever* invite me! Perpetuamente![5]”

Not bothering to check his reaction, I forcibly broke my arm free and left for home.

Ahh, so tiring...

[1] It’s customary in Japan to exchange phone email addresses rather than phone numbers.

[2] [River of Three Crossings](#): A river that the dead is believed to cross on their way to the afterlife.

[3] Original written in ‘English’. ストップザハーレム Sutoppu za haremu!

[4] Original: Japanese.

[5] That’s Spanish for ‘perpetually’. Original written in ‘English’. フォーエバー

Game and Reality

Kii usually ‘speaks’ quite casually in her head, but tends to use polite speech when she talks, even to Aoi.

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Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

Chapter 4 – Game and Reality

I retired to bed early so that my skin won’t get wrinkles from the stress. The next day, I woke up in a good mood.

The unpleasant figure who crushed my efforts is standing on the other side of the door at the entranceway, just like the day before.

“Kii, good morning.”

Why.

It’s scary that nothing seems to get to him even though I rejected him that strongly. Gross.

“This, I bought it yesterday. I thought it’d suit you. This gem has the same colour as your eyes. Will you accept it?”

Perhaps he’s confident; what he holds out with a happy-looking smile is a necklace.

A key-shaped charm with a blue gem inserted in it is attached to a silver chain. It’s cute.

Certainly, it’s to my liking.

And that’s scary.

“No thank you.”

“Kii!?”

『To think I can receive such a wonderful thing from senpai, it feels like a dream』I reflexively jumped at it, but then I came to my senses and let go,

apologising with a reddened face. Was he expecting such a development?

He's paying attention to his smartphone, so is he trying to check the favourability rating?

... My mood sure turned sour right from the morning. Ignore. Ignore!

"Ah, Kii! Wait, this."

"I don't need it! ah."

The necklace dropped on the floor from the impact when I shook off his hand that was persistently trying to pass it to me.

The silver chain tangled up, and the key-shaped charm landed in a mess.

"....."

Silently picking up the necklace, he looked towards me with an extremely lonely appearance, like an abandoned puppy.

I had never been looked at with such eyes before.

What I had seen had been nothing but serene smiles.

... What should I do?

Prick, pain ran through my heart.

Is it simply guilt, or...

No good, these eyes are no good, don't look at them.

"... I see you won't accept it."

"I will not. However... I'm sorry."

... I must escape.

Although I don't know why I must do so, I've an inkling it will be bad if I remain here like this.

As for what will be bad, I can't express it well.

I broke off into a run as though to shake him off.

Even though I know he's the most despicable scum.

That there's no meaning in the things he do.

That the likes of『a gift for a girl』is nothing special.

That there's nothing to be concerned about.

Things more horrible was done to me, so the likes of that extent...

... Even though I thought so.

I turn back, but he isn't there.

Even though it's something to cheer over... for some reason I'm not happy.

My heart still hurts.

The pain will not fade.

On the contrary, the thing stabbing into my heart sinks deeper whenever I recall his sad-looking face.

"Why do I have to feel this way..."

I give a small sigh to the asphalt my eyes are gazing at as I hang my head down.

※※※

Breaktime in the interval between lessons.

The chances of bumping into that guy at this time is comparatively lower.

It's terrifying how I used to think『It's lonely when we can't meet』around this timing.

I'm really glad that my eyes are opened now.

I haven't recovered from the damage this morning, but I decided to pay it no mind.

It's my loss if I do.

I warned myself that it was『*that* kind of tactics』and I can't be moved by them.

I was on class duty that day, and was requested by the homeroom teacher to move the notes and print-outs from the staff room to the classroom.

There's no problem weight-wise, but the piled-up print-outs seem like they'll slip off anytime and it made walking difficult. Just as I was troubled...

"Kii!"

"Yikes."

... It's him.

I had let down my guard thinking he wouldn't appear. And because of that, I gave a response of rejection as though a certain scurrying black pest[1] had appeared.

I almost dropped the things I was holding as a result. Close shave!

When I adjusted my posture, that guy stretched his hand out towards what I was holding.

“I’ll lend a hand.”

“No thank you!”

The heck?

He doesn’t appear concerned about what happened in the morning.

Even though I’m suffering so much... I’m like an idiot.

I can only let out dry laughter, haha.

For now, I must escape from gross-man who’s saying terrifying things as he approach...!

Ah sheesh, I want to punch him!

What should I do? Any ideas? I look around while thinking so, and found a boy who’s from my class nearby.

His name... what is it?

He’s terribly ‘average Joe’, and is much like the exemplar of background characters.

Short black hair, neither ikemen nor unsightly, not too flashy, not too plain...

A true『Classmate A』.

“The A-kun there!”

“Ei-kun!?”

When I called out to him, Classmate A-kun was surprised to the point that he seemed like he would spring up.

Come to think of it, this might be the first time we spoke?

“Sorry. Hold half of this, and come with me to the classroom!”

For me to suddenly hand him what I was holding, he appeared bewildered. It may be incredibly pushy, but I’m about to get caught by gross-man who is distracted!

“Kii!”

“Let’s go! Right now!”

We advanced with me urging him on, and somehow evaded contact.

There's no sign of pursuit. Just as I patted my chest, the classmate who was walking beside me while holding the papers, spoke up.

Ah, sorry.

I forgot about your existence for a moment.

"I was surprised that Torida-san called me『Ei-kun』."

"I apologise for the abruptness?"

I felt apologetic that his name doesn't come to mind even though he's my classmate.

A little more and I think I can recall...!

"It-it's fine. Really! Rather, I'm happy, actually... Can I also call you『Kii-chan』?"
"Eh?"

The moment I wondered how it come to this, I remembered.

That's right, his name is Itou Eita.

I said『A-kun』, but he heard it as『Ei-kun』.

It's so coincidental that I wonder whether it's a good or bad thing?

"C-can't I?"

"Sure thing. Ei-kun."

"Thank you! Ki-kii-chan!"

Maybe he's shy. His bashful look is cute.

Besides, I'm happy to be getting along well with a classmate.

It may have started with my discourtesy, but I'm glad it was sorted out well.

"Is that okay?"

"Is what?"

"Kagurazaka-senpai. He seemed like he had business with you."

"It's okay. Because I don't."

"I-is that so."

Perhaps the curt way I spoke stunned him; he's giving a slightly-strained courtesy smile.

I couldn't stop that from coming out of my mouth, but he's probably being strangely considerate because he knows that we[2] were on good terms until recently.

“Did you guys have a fight? You weren’t getting along well recently, right?”

The question that was asked meekly, was one that gave me a bad premonition.

Had the people around us noticed the change between us?

... I don’t want to attract too much attention.

“S-sorry! Sounding like I’m prying. It’s just that, it’s becoming a rumour.”

“Rumour?”

Rumours and the like, please give me a break.

Rumours don’t circulate with accurate details, and it’s perturbing that they say whatever they want for the fun of it.

“That Kii-chan wasn’t on good terms with Kagurazaka-senpai anymore. To tell the truth, the guys were rejoicing.”

“?”

“Ah, because Kii-chan is popular! For some reason, all the popular girls in this school likes Kagurazaka-senpai. It’s dull for the other guys, or so to speak...”

It’s my first time hearing I’m popular.

Ohh... I’m a little... Nah, I’m quite happy.

I feel like I’m about to grin while laughing『Dehehe』.

I’m also technically a capturable target with a storyline, so it might not be strange to be more or less popular?

It doesn’t ring a bell because it’s about myself though...

At any rate... it’s also the first time I find out that the male students are envious of that guy.

Come to think of it, I don’t have a close male friend other than that guy.

Perhaps that’s why it’s news to me.

I do chat with some, but it’s only that guy whose relationship I had was one whereby we would meet up during holidays.

... It’s upsetting somehow.

I feel like I’m finished in some way.

I don’t need a『boyfriend』, but I do want male friends I can chat with.

“Also, there’s compliments on how your atmosphere changed and how you became prettier, Kii-chan.”

“R-really!?”

That’s delightful, really delightful.

This means that I’ve rid myself of the cunning imouto label right!?!

I wonder if I can take it that they do acknowledge things outside of twin tails!

“Un! I-I... think so too.”

“Really? ... I’m happy to hear that.”

“*Gasp!*”

I couldn’t repress my happiness, nor the grin that crept up my face.

Ehehe, how embarrassing.

I’m getting all shy.

It’d be perfect if only the memory of『*that* guy and I being on good terms』will disappear too though.

“What’s wrong?”

“N-nothing!”

For some reason, Ei-kun’s face is completely red.

Could it be, he has never spoken much to girls?

I’m the same.

I’m not considering that guy as someone of『the opposite gender』anymore; he’s a creature known as scum.

The number of boys I’m on good terms with is zero.

It seems like I’ll become good friends with Ei-kun.

“Nn?”

The corridor of another building that could be seen from the window.

My eyes caught a person with cream-colored hair who halted his movements.

It’s that guy.

U-uwaah...

He has a crease between his brows, and is glaring in this direction.

What is he looking at, this person.

Gross as expected.



It is Tuesday.

At any rate, gross-man is probably working on upping the favourability ratings today, too.

The one whose favourability rating can be raised easily today is the older sister type upperclassman, Tatsumino Shiori.

She has a mature look with her long, wavy violet hair and golden eyes.

She's a character I like a lot.

Beautiful even when I look at her in person, how admirable!

I must saveth her from the demon's clutches at all costs!

Shiori leaves for school very early in the morning.

Even though she's not from the Horticulture Club, she waters the flowers planted in the courtyard.

Flowers and Shiori, together they create the best combination.

One can only call this the ultimate beauty.

The flowers are probably also delighted to be watered by Shiori.

... Come to think of it, gross-man said something similar in the game.

He likely said it in reality too, gross.

In any case, it's my chance when Shiori is busy watering the plants.

Sneaking into the classroom that was empty except for Shiori's bag, akin to what I did for Akari, I sneak in a letter with photographs into her bag.

I placed it where she will see it the moment she opens her bag, so she should be able to notice it immediately.

She's the daughter of a conglomerate's president.

After graduation she plans to support the company while attending university, and her dream is to contribute to her family.

Rather than a dream, it's already a fast-approaching fact.

This should be the time she enriches both mind and body in lieu of the coming changes to her environment, but her head is as full of gross-man as Akari's is.

To her who, in particular, has a strong sense of monopolization, simply seeing gross-man talk to other girls is aggravating.

Having gross-man take up her entire field of vision, she did not give a hoot about this situation where her other matters had taken the backseat and how her close ones are worried about her.

I also wrote,『Please hold dear the people who truly cherish you』in the letter, but I wonder if those words will reach her?

※※※

“Fuu.”

Having hid my figure from the scum, class ended safely today too.

Ever since I recalled the memories from my previous life, I’ve been living an oddly tense life.

I tidied up as my shoulders drooped from fatigue, and left the classroom.

My friends invited me to hang out, but it’s dangerous to let my guard down in school.

I regretfully reject the much-appreciated invitation and head to the entrance alone.

My head is full of Shiori.

Perhaps only a letter and photographs are not enough.

Maybe it will be better if I make full use of my knowledge of the game and deal another hand.

“You over there!”

“Eh?”

Even as I was surprised, I turned towards the voice that suddenly came from behind.

A truly timely person, a violet-haired goddess with her arms folded, stood there.

“Shiori-senpai.”

Ahh... sure enough, how beautiful!

She’s shining!

A goddess hath descended before me!

“It’s you, isn’t it? The one troubling Aoi!”

“Eh?”

“Pretending to withdraw yourself in order to attract his attention, I have seen through you.”

“N-no way...!”

It can’t be, there’s no visible signs at all that the letter is effective.

Rather... to think that the goddess had been tarnished by evil this much!

I had predicted this to some extent, but witnessing it right before my eyes, the damage is huge.

I beg you, don’t become a disappointing beauty...!

“I don’t have such an intention! Please believe me!”

“I can’t possibly believe that. You’ve been hanging so much around Aoi until recently. It’s strange that you’d change your mind all of a sudden.”

“That’s...”

Certainly, it’s just as she says.

I don’t have the confidence that I can give an explanation that will convince her.

『I regained my memories from a previous life』it’s unlikely she’d believe something like that.

Unable to find the words to say, I couldn’t open my mouth.

Ahh... but, I want to somehow make her understand!

“I wonder if you can say『I don’t love you』in front of him?”

“I can!”

“That’s right, you can... eh?”

I gave an immediate reply.

I had no hesitation with regards to that; it was an immediate reply at the speed of light.

It’s Shiori-senpai’s turn to be quiet now.

There’s a frown on her beautiful face, and she appears doubtful.

“Shiori!? Kii!? Glaring at each other so intensely... stop it, both of you...!”

When I gazed at Shiori-senpai, hoping she’d believe me, gross-man made his appearance while spouting absurd words.

Gross.

Perhaps it's dangerous to be near Shiori whose favourability rating increases easily today.

He has an expression that says『Please don't fight over me』, but it really is kind of cold.

It's cold enough that one can almost see a snowstorm brewing.

“Aoi...”

Ahh, how can this be...!

The beautiful goddess, Shiori-sama, also joined in the cold theatrics.

She gazed at gross-man with desolate eyes that seemed to say,『You saw something embarrassing... however. I don't want you snatched away from me!』

Umm—... I don't have to join in, right?

“You arrived at the right time for me to unravel Shiori-senpai's misunderstanding.”

In order to stop the snowstorm, I opened my mouth and stepped in.

I spoke as I approached Shiori-senpai step by step.

I halted right before Shiori-senpai, who was on her guard as she wonder『what will I say to her』.

“I think nothing of this person. That's why I can say this.『I do not love someone like this!』I'm not doing this because I want to attract his attention. Actually, rather than this person... I prefer Shiori-senpai!”

“Ehh.” “Eh?”

The voices of the two overlapped.

Even the stunned expressions on their faces are the same.

Damn you lowly scum, I won't forgive you for being『the same』as Shiori-senpai!

“I... want to be a woman as elegant and dignified as senpai!”

“Pardon?”

Even while knowing it's disrespectful, I took Shiori-senpai's hands in mine and locked eyes with her.

I admire you a lot!

“I want senpai to remain as the lovely Shiori-senpai! Yet, recently...”

Thereupon, I directed my gaze towards the scum.

With the meaning of『Wasn't it this guy's fault that things went wrong?』.

“What is『truly precious』to senpai?”

“... Eh?”

“Senpai. Right now, does senpai... have anything you are proud of about yourself? Have you cherished the people who truly cherish you?”

“!?”

It's the wise Shiori-senpai we're talking about. She should be somewhat aware of her situation that worries her closed ones.

Even though I, who almost confessed to him, have to right to say this so self-importantly, I sincerely hope that you will open your eyes.

“That's a lovely pendant, isn't it.”

“!”

I looked at the pendant around Shiori's neck as I gently let her hands, that I had been holding, go.

From the knowledge of my past life, I know what this pendant is.

She inherited this pendant with a violet crystal from her mother.

Its first owner was Shiori's grandmother, the founder of the conglomerate.

Her grandmother gave it to Shiori's mother, who married into the family, with the words『Do support my son who will be succeeding me』. After which, her mother gave it to Shiori, telling her『It's up to you to support your father』.

It's a pendant filled with the feelings of people Shiori holds dear.

“Shiori?”

Even though gross-man called out to Shiori, she did not move.

She hangs her head as she holds the pendant tightly.

She had most likely seen the letter this morning.

Please, remember and realise that the people around you are worried about you.

After looking down in rumination for a while, senpai let out a small sigh and turned her back towards us.

“Aoi... I am sorry. I will take my leave for today...”

Shiori-senpai departed with an apologetic smile.

While this might not have completely opened her eyes, it should impacted her somehow.

At the very least, she probably won't be spending today with the scum any more.

It'll be fine if it's Shiori. I want to believe so.

It's already a huge success to be able to thwart his upping of her favourability rating this week.

“Kii, why... about me... Can you tell me the reason...”

Beside me who is seeing Shiori-senpai off pleasantly, the scum stood unmovingly with a downcast look.

Fufu... the goddess hath left, it's my victory!

Since I'm in a good mood now, I shall talk to you just a little.

“It is because I realised that there is no『heart』in your words.”

Truth be told,『I know you tried to capture me! Damn scum!』I wanted to rebuke him.

However, I won't do that.

I don't want to know the likes of his circumstances.

Although I don't know whether he had reincarnated or not, it's a fact that he used his smartphone to capture us.

If I pursue in that direction, I will end up having to hear his explanation for it.

I don't want to hear something like that.

“Have you really been looking at *me*?”

“Of course!”

That's a lie.

What you had been looking at is『data』.

That isn't『me』.

“Then... pray tell, are you aware of what I do on days other than Fridays?”

“... Eh?”

Answer without looking at your smartphone if you had really been looking at

me.

... It's useless even if you refer to it though.

Tell me about the me who isn't there in the data, the me you had been looking at.

"... T-that's..."

His gaze was swimming around the tiny screen.

"... Enough already."

As expected, I am an idiot.

A part of me had been slightly hopeful.

Something like tears will not surface.

Only a faint laugh did.

"W-wait, Kii!"

"Please don't touch me!"

I strongly shook off his hand that tried to hold me back.

"Isn't it about time you stopped?"

"Kii..."

"... No one will be able to see 'you' at this rate, you know?"

Go ahead and enjoy your『game』in school now.

But, after graduation... what will you do in the future thereupon?

If you look at nothing but data and refuse to face people properly, no one will remain by your side.

Perhaps you'll be alone by the time you notice.

Who will think of becoming family with a person who will not face them?

He forget to even blink, and is stupefied.

Even his mouth remained shut.

I have no obligation to pay him any heed.

I left him as he is and took my leave.

[1] Pretty sure she's referring to a cockroach.

[2] Aoi and herself.

Horror

Poor Ei-kun... XD XD
=====

| |

Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

[Chapter 5](#) – Horror

The weather is good today.
The clear blue sky spreads out beyond the window.

Sure enough, today...

It seems like I can finally have a pleasant trip to school. Should I take some detours? I open the front door with such thoughts on my mind.

“G’morning, Kii.”

“... Not again? You really don’t learn your lesson, do you?”

Perhaps I should hire an exorcist.
Should I look for one in the yellow pages?

Good grief, is this guy a M?
There’s no doubt he’s some sort of pervert.
For him to be able to show up all fine and dandy despite how we parted ways yesterday, something in him is broken.

“I’d love to spend the whole day with you today.”

“‘Whole’? ... It’s Wednesday today, you know?”

I look at him while suppressing the surfacing goosebumps.
Is it okay for you to not go to the character whose favourability rating raises easily today?

Sheesh, can it be that it’s already MAXed so there’s no need to go?

“Didn’t you tell me yesterday? I thought I understood you, but that wasn’t the

case. I want to get to know you. Can't we start over? From our first meeting, when that feather was picked up..."

"..."

When that feather was picked up— —.

I was happy.

That I was able to find the rumoured Feather of Destiny with this person.

As though it was telling me that this person was my destined one.

Now that I think of it, I might have fallen in love that very first instance I saw him.

However, it had been nothing but『lies』.

"That's... obviously impossible!"

Perhaps even the feelings of love I have are created by the『system』.

I don't even know what's『real』anymore.

Nah, such a thing doesn't matter.

Be it truth or lie, it won't hurt as long as I don't get involved.

My chest doesn't have to feel all prickly.

"Don't bother with me!"

I ran away.

Enough is enough; don't unsettle me anymore!

※※※

I head to school in a quick pace and as fatigue plague me both physically and mentally, the lesson for the first period ends.

Although there isn't much time till the next lesson, my friends and I leave the classroom and head to the corridor where we chat while looking at the scenery outside the window...

"Kii."

"Yikes!"

I believe it can't be helped that I let out a scream.

It's scary.

From the flow of events yesterday and this morning, how is he able to appear as per usual!?

Are your nerves connected normally!

How do I get rid of you?

Seriously, what the heck...

"Kii, senpai is calling you!"

My friend hit my shoulder with what seems like excitement.

Don't worry, I can see him. Unfortunately.

If he's a ghost...it'd great if he's a ghost bound to the school...

Gross-man, with his handsome features, is also popular with the general students.

Even my friends applied pressure by telling me '*Don't make senpai wait!*'.

"I'll be heading to the restroom."

"Eh? What about senpai!?"

Leaving that guy and my friends behind, I escaped to the toilet.

The toilet is really the greatest 'safe area' where there's no encounters to be had, huh.

Aah, this really gives me a peace of mind.

I waited for the chime that indicates the start of lessons before I returned to the classroom.

I was chased around for the subsequent break times too and finally started to sense the danger.

Gross-man's face appearing before my eyes when I wake up in the morning... KYAAAAH! The aforementioned seems so likely to happen that it's frightening.

The genre of 'Destinied Gakuen'[1] isn't romance, but horror, right?

"Hm?"

Somehow managing give gross-man the slip, I returned to the classroom only to be surrounded by friends I'm on good terms with.

"Hey, Kii. That's rude to Aoi-senpai."

"That's right. Do you know how envious everyone is? How disagreeable!"

“Eh...”

Although they aren't truly enraged, their expressions are unamused. Even the girls watching from a distance are giving out the same feeling. What on earth's with this event...

Dammit, making allies out of the girls...!

The classroom is completely transformed into the opposing team's turf. ... It feels uncomfortable.

To take away even the place I belong, I can't forgive you more and more, Kagurazaka Aoi!

Without any allies, I can only struggle on my own.

Don't lose, me!

※※※

“Kii!”

Persistent! So noisy, going 'Kii', 'Kii'!

Why is he so unrelenting, I wonder.

How tenacious.

This stickiness is at a level where it'll shock even a natto yuru-chara.

I feel annoyed everytime I think about how the criticism towards me piles up while the favourability rating towards gross-man increases when more female students spot us as I fled.

The world is unreasonable.

I hasten my pace, wanting to give him the slip this time too.

Gross-man, too, pursued in order to not be given the slip.

As I moved while looking for a place to hide, a hand stretched out from a classroom I passed by and pulled my arm.

What's going on!? I panicked, but the one who pulled me wasn't gross-man but he, the supreme background character.

“Kii-chan!”

“Ah, A... I mean, Ei-kun!”

“This way!”

I enter the classroom with my arm still being pulled. It's the first-years' classroom.

Something is written on the blackboard.

Apparently the committee Ei-kun is in had a meeting.

Moreover, it seems to have ended not long ago and everyone else had left.

“Thank you. But, why...?”

“I saw Kagurazaka-senpai looking for you just now, so I wondered if you were fleeing.”

For a classmate whom I'm not on particularly close terms with to figure out the situation... it sure hurts my stomach.

“Kii-chan!”

My thoughts were about to sink in the sea of defeat but having my hands suddenly grasped brought my consciousness back.

My two hands were enveloped and held tightly.

Eh? What's happening?

“All of us guys believe Kii-chan! We believe that Kii-chan will be the last fortress!”

“...?”

What is he talking about?

I don't quite get it, but he appears to have some kind of expectation.

He's staring at me with shining eyes.

“A-also... I promised not to steal a march but... I...!”

Although I completely don't understand what's going on, Ei-kun's growing increasingly passionate.

The strength he put in his hands also continue to increase.

“Um... my hands hurt.”

“Ah, sorry.”

I feel bad for doing this when he's getting fired up, but I cannot remain all laidback here.

“Sorry, I’ll be going, okay. Thanks!”

“Ah, wait a moment, I still haven’t...!”

He seems to have something to say, but let’s leave it till next time.
As I open the door and step forward... I slam into something in front.
... It’s a person.

“Kii.”

“YIKESSS!”

I’ll likely be dead if it really is a horror game.
Nonetheless, my heart’s beating so rapidly it’s probably enough to kill me.

I returned to the classroom in a panic and hid behind Ei-kun.
Save me, background character-kun!
Erohim Essaim! [3]

“You are...”

When I peeked out as I hid behind the shield that is Ei-kun, I saw that *he* [4]
had a grim expression on.

Rather than grim... it’s scary.

It’s quite intense when such an expression is made with a well-chiselled face.
Even Ei-kun faltered.

Don’t lose, background character-kun!

“Ki-kii-chan does not like it! Please do not chase her around!”

“Scram.”

“Uu.”

Why are you throwing in the towel from a single word? Do your best!
My eyes met with Ei-kun who appears like he wants to run away, so I shot him
a ‘Save me!’ gaze.

You are the true ‘last fortress’!

Perhaps my feelings got through; Ei-kun’s face reddened and he prepped
himself, drawing close to that guy.

“I-I don’t want to!”

... He’s doing his best!
What a nice person!

Even though I'm using you as bait and bidding my time!

“Such a plain... guy like the previous me...”

The scum's muttering about something.

He seems to be acting weird somehow.

The furrow between his brows deepen and the glint in his eyes grows sharper.

I can almost see a black aura.

“Ei-kun, sorry!”

“Kii-chan!?”

I will not waste your valuable sacrifice!

Seeing a good opportunity, I dash out and escape from the door on the opposite side.

My feet did not stop although I saw the two's shocked expressions.

Ei-kun, it's regrettable losing you...

... Let's apologise next time.

()

[1] Shortened version of the game's title, 'Hanazono Gakuen ~The Destined Encounter~'.

[2] [Yuru-chara](#): a type of Japanese mascot character. [Natto](#): Sticky fermented soybeans. Type of food.

[3] [Link](#). This chant appeared in [Akuma-kun](#) as a spell to summon demons, in Shigatsu Kimi no Uso by a character before her concours and even in Romantica Clock!



(Akane from Romantica Clock)

[4] Aoi.

Bewilderment

IIRC, the next chapter (which is also the final) should be more than fourfolds longer than the other chapters so I plan to translate and upload it in parts. I have several assignment deadlines coming up *sobs* pray for me? EDIT: THANK YOU!!
Love y'all, muacks!

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| |

Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

Chapter 6 – Bewilderment

With the way things have been going, even I can predict.
When I open the front door, that guy is there yet again.
Same as yesterday.
No, I have a feeling he's 'sparkling' more than yesterday.
Did he power up? How come?

It's such a huge difference from his grim expression yesterday that I can only feel fear.

What should I do if there's flowers placed above Ei-kun's desk[1] when I enter the classroom today...!

"... Haa."

"Kii, g'morning."

"Can you please stop this already?"

Did he accumulate some sort of weird exp and levelled up?
Or does he have some item that recovers his mental energy?
Otherwise, it's strange.
His head's strange.

"Shall we hold hands?"

"Sure enough, something's wrong with your head, huh."

'Is there something wrong with you?' I won't ask that.
It's something I already know. It's enough that I affirm it.
When I let my guard down, his hand reaches out and tries to grab mine.
"Ah, ouch."

Whack, I smack his hand off.
Why are you trying to grab my hand so naturally!
I can't be negligent for even a moment.
How many hands had that hand held?
Damn soiled hand, come back after cleansing it with the spring water from the peak of a sacred mountain!

※※※

Sheesh, how long are you going to follow me around for...

During the short rest periods, during noon break.
And now, even after school...
He's always there.
I've an inkling that the frequency he clings to me is increasing.
It seems like he'll eventually end up joining me for class too.
Perhaps, the favourability rating of the other capturable characters are MAXed, and there's only me left for his harem to be completed.

"Wait a sec, Aoi!"

Being stopped when climbing down the stairs.
The one being stopped isn't me, but the scum following me around. However, I unconsciously reacted and my feet ended up stopping too.

The origin of the voice came from the top of the stairs.
A second-year like that guy, his tsundere classmate with outstanding athleticism, Nekoyashiki Midori.
Green, straight and long hair with yellow-green eyes.
She's a capturable character whose favourability rating increases easily on Wednesdays.

I've not passed her the 'Letter of Awakening' yet.

I wanted to pass it to her yesterday, but there wasn't any time to because I was desperately escaping from that guy.

Her eyebrows are raised and her expression is full of anger.

"Why didn't you come yesterday!"

"That's..."

After awkwardly averting his gaze from Midori, he looked over in my direction in a dispirited manner.

... Oi, why the heck are you looking here!?

Isn't that like saying I'm the cause!

"... So you were the one leading Aoi around, huh!"

See, it really turned out like this!

"That's incorrect!"

"I'm sorry, Midori. Kii didn't do anything wrong at all. It's my fault!"

That's right, it's all your fault!

Actually, insinuating it's me and then protecting me... are you doing it on purpose?

Nah, you're probably not thinking at all!

"I don't need *this* so please go on ahead!"

I'll even hand him over in a gift wrap[2].

I pushed the scum's back and presented him.

Alright, go over there, shoo shoo.

"..."

The expression on Midori's face changes.

... Ah, this is bad.

Staring intently at me with a solemn face is honestly scary.

It's scarier than if she behaves angrily.

I understand that I stepped on some landmine.

I honestly don't need something like the scum, so I handed him over with a 'I don't need this', but now that I think about it clearly, if something like that is

done to someone...

I'm an incredibly terrible woman.

『I don't need such a man so I'll give him to you』, doesn't that sound just like a villainess on high horse!

"Seriously, you...!"

Using her outstanding athleticism, Midori bolt from the stairs and draws closer.

I'm pressed by that pressure and...

— — Ah.

I back away, completely forgetting that I'm on the stairs.

I realise it when I lose my footing... it's already too late.

My body has already stiffened...

It's no use; I'll fall.

I make the mental preparation and gather strength in my body, but... huh?

Impacts that aren't painful exists in the world, but is this how it's like?

The impact is really too weak, though...

The floor isn't even hard; in fact, it's soft.

... Soft?

When I open the eyes that I reflexively closed, I see...

"Kii. Are you okay?"

A handsome face, one that used to make my heart throb painfully simply at the sight of it, entered my eyes.

But now...

"YIKESSS!"

I feel pained in a different way.

Too close! Scary!

Suppressing the rising goosebumps, I jump back in a panic.

Kagurazaka Mamoru lays stretched out at the bottom of the stairs.

It seems that this guy acted as a cushion and shielded me.

"Ah, I am sorry! Are you hurt..."

I reflexively distanced myself but...

It wasn't an attitude one should take towards a person who saved her.

... I wonder if he's okay.

"Aoi! Are you okay!?"

I attempted to check if he's injured but Midori ran over, pushed me away, and knelt near that guy.

She supported him as he tried to get up, and fussed over him.

... So it seems I don't have to make an appearance here.

Midori appears terribly anxious as she worried over him.

More than him, Midori's the one who seems much less composed.

"I'm okay so don't worry, Midori."

"B-but... it's because I jumped down and pressured that girl that... I am sorry..."

"I'm really okay. So don't worry."

Being spoken to gently by that guy, Midori finally started crying.

The tear glands are more easily stimulated when one is being treated gently, huh.

Yep yep, I understand but..... Erm, can I leave already?

A nice ambience rose from the crying bishoujo and the ikemen who's stroking her head and comforting her.

... Y'all sure are lost in your own world!?

"Sheesh, Midori. It's not like I'm hurt..... ow."

Huh...?

He seems to be appealing that he isn't hurt so as to not worry Midori, but his expression stiffened for an instant when he shifted his right foot.

"I'm glad Aoi isn't hurt."

Looks like Midori didn't realise it, but I think he's sweating abnormally.

Perhaps, his foot hurts?

I wonder if it's sprained?

"Are you okay, Kii?"

"Ah, yes..."

Rather than me, you're the one who doesn't seem okay.
But if I say that, Midori will get worried.
Since the injured person himself is trying to hide it, it isn't something I can voice out.

"S-sorry. Both of you. I need to go to the toilet, so..."

Saying that, he started walking in the toilet's direction hastily.
He appears to be enduring it, but if I look carefully, he's favouring his right foot as he walks.

"... I'm going back home with Aoi so I'll go grab my bag."

Shooting a gaze that says『You better not steal a march, alright』, Midori left.
Good grief, what should I do?

For the time being, let's see how that guy is doing.

I prepared myself for a chase when I headed in the direction of the toilet, but that guy is in the immediate vicinity, standing unmoving with his hand on the wall.

... It looks painful.

"Is your foot okay?"

"... Kii, you found out?"

"Yes. ... You were acting cool."

Even his face that gave a bitter laugh in reply, showed a lack of composure.

"You know, even though it was unintentional, Midori had once caused her friend to get injured. Hence, she has this side of her where she tends to blame herself a lot..."

"... Is that so."

I know about that from my knowledge of the game.

In Midori's middle school days, a tiny prank that she set up for her childhood friend, a boy, caused a huge incident.

It was an unfortunate accident, but he became badly injured.

Although his injury healed, there were still after effects on his foot. It became difficult for him to fulfill his dream as a short distance runner in track-and-field.

With regards to that, he was working hard to overcome it on his own, but it

wasn't so for Midori.

Midori who was also a track-and-field runner like him... quitted with the intention of atoning.

That angered him, and created a gap between the two.

Her memory from that time probably resurfaced.
Perhaps that was why she was so flustered.

That guy appears relieved when I tell him Midori isn't here. He crouches down on the spot.

"Let's go to the infirmary."
"It's okay. Midori's coming back, right? She'll be worried if I go to the infirmary."

While I think that it's wonderful to take such a stance of not worrying girls... I would have probably fallen in love all over again if I didn't knew he's scum.

... I liked this side of him, huh.
Geez, I don't really want to recall though.

"I'll go get a compress and come back, so please wait here."

I saw his lips move, saying『I don't need it』, but I'm ignoring that.
Besides, it's my fault that he's injured.

I obtain a compress and return to that guy in a hurry so that I will have time to put it on him before Midori returns.

His ankle is sprained; it's slightly swollen.
It doesn't seem that serious but sprains can't be judged visually.

"Please treat it properly at home, alright."
"Thank you, Kii."
"That should be my line. Thank you very much for saving me."
"I'm glad Kii isn't hurt."

When he gives me that smile I used to like so much, an indescribable fuzziness spread in my chest.

... Perhaps, I didn't hate this smile.
Even though he's unforgivable... and I *must* hate it.

"If someone is going to get hurt because of me, it is better if I am the one who

is hurt. That is why, please do not do it ever again. It is none of your business.”

... Somewhat unpleasant huh.

The me who can only say things like this.

What an uncute girl I am.

“To prefer being hurt yourself, Kii sure is kind.”

“....”

What is this guy saying?

If he speaks this way in addition to saving me...

When I direct my gaze at him, he is still smiling gently.

... I wonder I’m getting poisoned by this smile?

What an idiot I am.

So much so that it’s astonishing.

“You, who paid attention to not make Midori-senpai uneasy... were a little, wonderful.”

I unconsciously voice it out.

Even though I did not intend to say something like that.

“...”

He has a surprised expression on.

It becomes awkward as I look at that expression.

“I’m happy. It’s been awhile since Kii smiled.”

“... Eh?”

Just now, I... smiled?

If that’s so, it means my guard was down.

That’s a bad indication.

... I have to, build more walls.

“Hey, Kii. As expected, I want to be with Kii more. I want to see more of Kii’s smiles. I want to get to know Kii better, and I also want Kii to know me better... will you watch over me?”

“... Such a thing”

『Of course I’ll reject.』

I intended to say that, but...

“ ... ”

The words won't come out.

The smile reflecting in my eyes right now is trying to break down something in me.

... If I had heard these words earlier, I would probably have answered『Yes』.

However... regretfully, the current me is unable to say that.

Because I am stubborn.

Even if that is something that will worsen as time goes by and constrict my neck.

That's why, more and more, I want you to get a taste of it.

Of exactly how hurt I was.

Work harder and harder to attract my attention——.

...Eh?

...Wrong, wrong wrong, just now, I... was thinking about something.

Something like that is... wrong, I have to hate him.

Even though it's best to not get involved, to be wanting him to attract my attention, that's absurd.

“Please don't bother with me!”

Midori-senpai's footsteps are drawing nearer.

Let's go home first.

I'll go back and reset.

So that I can properly hate him tomorrow too.

[1] This is usually done when the student a particular desk belongs to, passes away.

[2] [Noshi](#) のし

Part 1

Hahaha let's run an experiment, shall we? An identical poll as the one below will be posted together with a latter part of this novel (reminder: chapter 7 is crazily long so it'll be split into parts) and we'll see if there's a change in perception or not! Let me know if there's any options y'all want me to add/edit :)

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| | Next Chapter

Kōryaku Taishō-sha na Watashi wa Gyarugē Shujinkō kara Nigetai wake de!

[Chapter 7](#) – The True Heart [Part 1]

When I open the front door, the slightly damp air brushes against my skin. The sky is cloudy today. I think the weather forecast yesterday did mention it'll rain from noon onwards.

Perhaps I should bring an umbrella.

While it isn't a『refreshing morning』, it isn't blindingly bright either, and fits my current mood perfectly.

Perhaps they are reflecting my listlessness; the soft curls that I should have curled properly[1] are limp.

I was unable to sleep well last night. Because I repeatedly slept and woke, my head hurts. This is all Kagurazaka Aoi's fault. ... Anyhow, he's probably here today too. With these thoughts in my mind, I turn the door knob.

“G'morning, Kii.”

See, I knew it. He has his usual gentle smile on.

Thank goodness.

...Nn?

What did I mean by『Thank goodness』?

I reflexively make a comeback at myself.

It's no good; my head may have turned strange because I didn't get proper sleep.

I have to get myself together.

Just as I was thinking that, my gaze stops at his foot and I recall.
His foot was sprained yesterday but...

“Senpai, your foot...”

“Un, it's fine. Thanks for the concern.”

“Is that so. I wasn't concerned at all, but... thank goodness.”

I purposely speak in a disinterested manner and walk pass him.

I start walking in a quick pace that simply shouts『I want to walk alone』, but for some reason, he has a happy-looking expression as he walks beside me.

My anger bubbles at both how my intention wasn't transmitted and at that grin on his face.

“... *Sigh*.”

I don't like this『naturally, we'll head to school together』feeling.
I unknowingly let out a sigh.

“I have a favour to ask you, Kii.”

“Do allow me to reject it.”

“There isn't an issue when I walk, but I doubt I'm able to chase after you if you escape. That's why, can you give escaping a rest today? Besides, today's the Friday that I tend to spend with you. I want to be together with you.”

“...”

I want to say, ‘First of all, listen to what people have to say’.
It's tiring to retort every single time, so I won't say it though.

『Friday』, he says.

It seems like I'd unconsciously say『Isn't it because it's the day the favourability

rating raises easily?』so I swallowed those words.

I don't want to think about it. I don't want my mood to turn even gloomier than this.

It will rain.

“Shall we go somewhere after school?”

“I am not going.”

“I'll pick you up when class is over.”

“Like I said... can you hear me? Are your ears working properly? *I am not going!*”

“I'll come and pick you up.”

“...”

He shoots me a smile the same time his words are fired. This smile that charms a large number of girls is nothing but a threat to me now.

My classroom has completely transformed into the opposing team's turf.

If I ignore this guy when he comes to pick me up, the favourability rating people have of me will be reduced again.

Ah... but, I wonder if the guys will cheer for me.

Nah, even so, female friends are more important to me than male ones.

Moreover, if I continue ignoring him as he pursues me throughout the day, it feels like I'll get stabbed by the girls at some point.

“If you stay quiet during the other break times, I'll accompany you if it's just after school...”

“Kii! Yes, I promise!”

“... It's just for today.”

Let's treat it as thanks for shielding me from my fall off the stairs yesterday and endure it.

We'll probably go out of school when school ends so let's take it that I've managed to protect school's peace... yep.



“How serene.”

The weather forecast is still off its mark at this point; it hasn't rained.
I stretch and loosen my body as I gaze at the cloudy sky beyond the window.

The morning classes are over and it is now the long break time:『lunch break』.

As that guy promised, he has yet to appear today.

It's been a while since I can spend my time in school undisturbed... at the instant I was thinking so.

“...Whoa.”

The moment I relaxed, I encountered that guy in a totally unexpected place.

Perhaps it's due to the lack of sleep; my head's a blank. Hence I decided to take a nap and went to the backyard.

An iron bench sits there, its coat of paint peeling off slightly.

The bench isn't exactly pretty, but it's perfect when you want to lay down horizontally.

Moreover, there's a large tree by the bench. On top of the shade provided by the tree, it's a little-known place people rarely drop by.

I thought that there won't be anyone here with the weather being so unpredictable today, but someone beat me to it.

It's *that* guy.

What is he doing in a place like this?

I hid myself and stealthily peeked out. He's engrossed in reading a book.

I'm curious about the book he's reading so I strain my eyes but I still can't see it clearly.

I think it's some kind of magazine...

“『Understanding her preferences』will give you a high evaluation. Your choice of the shop and your choice of the present is key...”

He's scanning the page pensively while muttering about something.

Does that magazine contains such complicated content?

“Present... nuh huh, what I have to take note is that depending on her mood when she receives it, it may feel oppressive or shallow... so the timing is important too. If it's the previous Kii-tan, she'd like cute...-ish and girlish things, but the current Kii-tan seems like she prefers pretty and fashionable things,

huh.”

I heard something about me from his mutterings?

Or rather... is it me or it sounds like he’s thinking about what to give me for a present?

Watcha doing, to the extent of hiding in such a place!?

For some reason, I grew embarrassed; my face turned hot.

No, this isn’t due to bashfulness nor happiness.

It’s because I was called『Kii-tan』again, such an embarrassing way of calling my name...!

“Moreover, she seems to admire Shiori... should I ask Shiori for suggestions? I wonder if she doesn’t like accessories anymore... I didn’t manage to get her to accept it after all. Also, where should we go today? It’s so hard... ahhh, what should I do-jaaaa!”

『Ja』!? [2]

Eh... is he actually ‘a grandpa who reincarnated’ on the inside, or something!? I wonder if he’s going all brouhaha because his body became young.

If so... I think it’s forgivable.

If I treat it like daycare, I’m not too unwilling to go for just a 1-day date y’know.

... Wait, it’s not the time for that.

It was the same when he was murmuring by himself previously too, but this gives a different impression from the normal Kagurazaka Aoi.

Is this the『true Kagurazaka Aoi』?

I realize the moment that came to my mind.

Perhaps I wasn’t looking at senpai either.

Just as how he wasn’t looking at my true self, I, too, wasn’t looking at the true Kagurazaka Aoi?

“Isn’t this harder than the bar exams...!?”

... Even though I was reflecting on myself seriously.

I heard a line that completely cut the tension.

Let’s give up on napping and go back.

“To think it’ll be so tough without the capturing data... I really had been

enjoying myself so far, huh.”

He’s still muttering away, but I bet it’s something foolish.
I think I’m starting to want to escape after school...



[1] She’s talking about her hair.

[2] Some Japanese add stuff to the end of their sentences (think Naruto’s “-dattebayo”). “-jaa” is a suffix associated with the older generation.
